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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 4, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GARRET GRAVES to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot going on around here lately. We have been conducting investigations, holding hearings, and some of us have even tried and failed to fundamentally change the way we provide health care in this country.

It has been easy to get distracted by the dozens of different headlines and breaking news stories we see each week. But no matter what else is going on here in Washington, one thing con-

tinues unabated: each day, the United States, like every other country on Earth, continues to release tons and tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and now we are starting to see the effects.

Over the last couple of years, the U.S. has joined 20 other countries from around the world in growing its economy while reducing its annual emissions into the atmosphere. This is not a small feat, and decoupling emissions from growth is the first step toward the substantive action needed to address the growing climate crisis. But I find this concept of reducing emissions can sometimes be a little misleading.

In the last few years, the U.S. has reduced the rate that it emits greenhouse gases. But even if we are doing it more slowly, we are still emitting harmful pollution into our air.

Imagine, Mr. Speaker, standing at the edge of an empty swimming pool with a garden hose. For a while, water was spewing out of that hose at a torrent; and each year, the volume got greater and greater. Now, the water is still running, but we have begun to turn the speed down. However, even if we manage to slow the rate of water going in, the pool still has more water than when we started and is still filling up.

Our atmosphere is that pool. For nearly 100 years, it has been filling up with greenhouse gases. And they don't just go away when the calendar flips. Reducing the annual emissions is vital, but we can't lose track of all the gases that have been accumulated year after year.

If we are going to hit the international goal of limiting climate warming to 2 degrees Celsius, we need to start acting now. Yet, this august body has been behind the curve on this issue for years.

Our colleagues seem content to ignore the climate crisis, to hold hearings with discredited, crank

pseudoscientists bought and paid for by corporate interests, or to deny the value of scientific thinking altogether, an approach that is all too familiar given the post-research, post-intelligence, post-truth mindset that we have seen from this administration. They have adopted a "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil" approach to climate change, hoping they can ignore it until it goes away. Sadly, that is not the way the world works.

We can't unfill the pool by pretending there is no such thing as water. This form of denial has been evolving over time. First, we heard that there was no way that climate is changing at all.

Now that the changes in the atmosphere are beyond doubt, we are starting to hear that climate is changing but there is nothing we can do about it. In addition to being flat out false, that type of thinking is unbecoming of a nation that put the first man on the Moon, pioneered instantaneous communication, and has led the world in the fight against countless deadly diseases.

Last month, we heard the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency question the very fundamentals of atmospheric science, a particularly dismaying thing from the man charged with leading the fight against climate change. This type of willful scientific ignorance has serious consequences. It will cost lives.

Children will be exposed to harmful, asthma-inducing pollution because we didn't act fast enough to clean our air. They will die because crops that could be counted on for generations will no longer grow. They will be forced from their homes because melting polar ice is driving sea levels higher and higher.

We cannot deny these impacts. We cannot continue to hear no evil and see no evil when these changes are happening all around us, resulting in devastating consequences that affect every aspect of our life.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Instead, the time has come to speak up and speak loudly like our lives and the world depend on it, as it truly does.

RECOGNIZING VICTORIA RIOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding young lady from our south Florida community, Victoria Rios.

Vicki is the winner of the 2016 Congressional App Challenge from my congressional district, and she is a remarkable senior high student at Gulliver Preparatory.

Her app, Simple Sign, was created out of the most noble and sincere desire to help those with hearing impairment, and her app was inspired by her special needs younger sister, Zoe.

Simple Sign is an easy-to-use app that includes photos and videos that helps individuals easily and quickly learn sign language through a cell phone or tablet.

The future of our great Nation relies on innovators from all backgrounds and walks of life in STEM careers, and I could not be more proud of Vicki choosing this extraordinary calling. I hope that this accomplishment will inspire her classmates, friends, and other young women across south Florida to pursue a career in STEM fields.

Congratulations, Victoria, and I cannot wait to see all of the amazing designs that you will create in the future.

2017 AIDS WALK MIAMI

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage all of south Florida to participate in the 2017 AIDS Walk Miami on Sunday, April 23, at Soundscape Park located in my congressional district of Miami Beach.

This 5K walk through the streets of beautiful South Beach seeks to cultivate a culture of awareness and prevention, as well as help provide services for the more than 15,000 individuals who have been impacted by HIV/AIDS in our south Florida community.

Since 1989, this AIDS walk has been one of Miami's largest HIV/AIDS awareness charity event and continues to attract thousands of participants from all over the Nation who walk together to raise funds to prevent new infections, maximize the health outcomes and quality of life of those infected, and ultimately end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in south Florida.

Unfortunately, last year, south Florida led our Nation in AIDS-related deaths, and Miami was one of the Nation's top HIV hotspots.

This walk lends vital support to local groups and organizations, such as Care Resource and the Food for Life Network, that are working to transform the lives of patients and caregivers throughout our south Florida community.

The Food for Life Network food bank provides and delivers groceries, meals,

and nutritional education to men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS in Miami-Dade County. Since 1987, its staff and volunteers have provided over 1.5 million meals and groceries as well as other crucial services, such as free screening for sexually transmitted diseases, free medical and dental care, access to health and nutrition specialists, and so much more, Mr. Speaker.

Care Resource is improving the health and quality of life of our diverse south Florida community, especially those impacted by HIV/AIDS, by providing essential health services, such as pediatric and dental care, immunizations, HIV primary care, and more.

It is because of the work and commitment of organizations like these that AIDS is no longer a death sentence and patients can live long and fulfilling lives.

So, again, Mr. Speaker, I invite everyone in south Florida to come out to the 2017 AIDS Walk Miami and help celebrate our great success against this disease and the great progress that we have achieved for the thousands living with HIV/AIDS in south Florida and to reaffirm our strong commitment to the work that is yet to be done.

Together we can achieve the goal of an AIDS-free generation in the near future.

COMMEMORATING THE WORK OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate one of the Nation's largest animal protection organizations, The Humane Society of the United States.

Each year, The Humane Society and its affiliates provide sanctuaries, veterinary programs, emergency shelters, and rescues to over 100,000 animals, leading in efforts to confront animal cruelty and providing care and services to many animals in need.

In addition, The Humane Society works tirelessly to educate and advocate by providing essential training and services to local shelters and animal groups lacking resources and through policy initiatives on both the State and national level.

Animal welfare and wildlife conservation are vital to our south Florida community. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to pay tribute to the outstanding commitment of all the volunteers of The Humane Society of the United States and wish all of them great success as we continue working together to combat animal cruelty and negligence to create a better world for all animals.

MILITARISM, MATERIALISM, AND RACISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this is the 49th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King, Jr., was, sadly, struck down in Memphis, Tennessee, by an aberrant

individual who wanted to kill him and chased him all over the country. It so happened that Memphis was the spot that he had that final opportunity.

In Memphis, there will be activities today celebrating the life of Dr. King and commitments to community service in his spirit.

Ironically, today, while it is the 49th anniversary of his assassination, it is also the 50th anniversary of his greatest speech, in my opinion. Not the "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech that he made the night before in Memphis, the great speech where he said: I have been to the mountaintop, and I may not get there with you; but I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land.

His greatest speech, in my opinion, was the speech at the Riverside Church in New York, in Manhattan, on April 4 of 1967, when he spoke of the three isms that bother this country and are the enemies of this country: militarism, materialism, and racism.

The speech was called "Beyond Vietnam." A prescient Dr. King saw the need to get out of Vietnam, to make a unilateral step, cease the bombing, save lives. He was indeed right about that. We should have gotten out of Vietnam then, but we didn't.

It was months later that Richard Nixon interfered with the peace process for political reasons and got word to Vietnam not to participate; that they might get a better deal from Nixon; and that stopped President Johnson from possibly concluding the war in 1968.

The racism, the militarism, and the materialism are still pervasive. Dr. King wouldn't like what he sees today. We have a budget giving 56 or \$57 billion extra to the military and cutting away from diplomacy efforts, foreign aid efforts that militate against war. And it takes away from funding for people, African Americans and poor people in America, who need government assistance.

That is part of what Dr. King was concerned about in this "Beyond Vietnam" speech. And here it is 50 years later and we still suffer with the same tight budget and the same misguided priorities.

We have an Attorney General who is looking at ending consent decrees on police violence against African Americans in Baltimore, Maryland, and also in Ferguson, a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri.

We are going the wrong direction, and it is sad that one of our greatest prophets and one of our greatest leaders told us about it 50 years ago.

Have we learned?

The disparity in wealth is greater than ever in this country. The rich are getting richer and richer and richer. It is incomprehensible that there are billionaires—and there are lots of them out there—and that the tax breaks that we offer in the Tax Code are going to give millionaires and billionaires hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars of tax breaks at the expense of